

Her Christmas Hat.

HEY hadn't been engaged very long and, of course, he could hardly be expected to have known. But he didn't know much, anyway, about the workings of a woman's mind and—but here's the story:

You see, if there was one thing she did really, really love, it was big hats—great big hats, the very extreme of fashion's dictum this season. She was a small girl and her face by no possible stretch of imagination could be called round and full. And she did just dote on big hats—real big ones.

Now, he knew nothing of the law involved in the feminine world to the effect that when fashion says is correct is undeniably becoming to every woman. He didn't bother much about women's clothes, but he did always know when she looked well and told her so. That did for a time. But soon he saw that she expected him to be more specific in his admiration of her clothes—to mention at least 16,000.



So He Could View It From All Sides.

So ecstatic and admirable points about each gown or hat. Then, after a time, she complained that, while it was just nice and dear and sweet of him to always admire her clothes, she felt that his compliments were somewhat in the nature of flattery, because he never mentioned the little defects and shortcomings that will creep into even the dreamiest "dreams" of hats. Being on the job, he informed her he would, hereafter, tell her frankly and honestly just what he thought of her hats.

Promised Rashly.

Then she bought a big hat—one as big as the average silver dollar looks to the average poverty-stricken shareholder in Standard Oil. It was a Christmas present from her dad.

As she was untying the bandbox (moved in that evening by six taxis, perspiring expression) she remarked:

"Now, dear, remember you promised to tell me just what you think of this hat."

Leaving the room for a minute, she returned wearing the merry-go-round.

"How do you like it, dear?" she cooed, sweetly.

"Remember now, your honest opinion."

Then she turned round gracefully, impressively, in order that he might view it from every angle.

He gasped. Then he blurted out, in what was meant to be a kindly tone:

"I don't like it at all!"

Her face fell.

"Why not?" she questioned.

"It's too big," he replied.

The hat drooped disconsolately over one ear.

"But it's the style," she argued.

"Can't help it. It isn't your style. Just because John D. looks well in a wig does that mean that I would too? Small hats are more becoming to you. Your face isn't large enough to wear a big hat. Only fat women can do that."

"The hat was off her head now hanging dejectedly from one hand."

"Oh, no, d-d-d-d-d. You're wrong. My face isn't large but—but—but I've got the hair for a big hat."

"The hair? What?"

"The hair—the hair—stupid! I have so much hair that it makes my head and face look larger. Don't you see?"

"His illustrious predecessor."

"Nope," he answered, short and quick, grim determination to stick to his point written in the droop of his mouth.

"Can't see it that way! That hat's atrocious! It's awful! It's a fright!"

And then the rains descended and the floods came—and likewise the vials of her wrath.

"But—but, dear," he interposed after the seventeenth cloudburst. "Didn't you insist that I tell you just exactly what I thought of the blindest old thing? Didn't you have me promise to tell the truth? And then you do—"

"That doesn't make any difference," she faltered, perfectly, between her sobs of vanity wounded. "You shouldn't have done it. You're a brute. Albert (one of her legion of ex-lovers) would never have said it that way. He was always—always so considerate. And so you—"

"You could have expressed an opinion but not so forcibly. Why—why didn't you just say black on or—this is the way Albert would have done—"

"Albert?" he gasped. "Albert is deceased!"

At 4 P. M. that morning several of his men friends, whom he had dodged conscientiously ever since his engagement, discovered him mulling the story into the twenty-third whiskey and soda.

Care of the Hands.

CANTON FLANNEL GLOVES should always be worn while doing any work in the house—that is, if a woman cares about her hands. In dusting, sweeping and general cleaning her hands should be covered. A pair of red, chapped hands, with irregular scales, are most unattractive. All these come about if a woman does not protect her hands from the action of dust and hot water. Even in washing the best of china with the softest of soap these gloves can be worn. And they cost but approximately 15 cents a pair.

CHEERFULNESS is the keynote of Christmas as it should be spent. If you wish to be a participant in the glad tidings remember that this is a holiday season; a time when everybody is more or less liable to step aside from the beaten track of commonplace, everyday actions.

The home, as the center of the family circle and the place for the celebration of Christmas, must always be a place of sunshine and cheerfulness.

There is nothing that detracts from the proper spirit of happiness like a cross look, a harsh word or an unwelcome attitude.

Your husband feels the happiness of the season and becomes, possibly, over-exuberant in consequence. If he is generally a nervous man who can be relied upon at all other times, do not be cross with him—whether his offense consists in falling off the water wagon or spending too much money for presents for his friends.

Children have grown to look upon Christmas with its Santa Claus and its Christmas tree and its beautiful tradi-

tions as being especially their own property. They will, in the fullness of their happiness, sometimes overstep the lines of propriety. Should they do so, remember that it is your duty to be cheerful even if you must correct them, "for unto you is born a King."

The value of cheerfulness is not thoroughly understood by a certain type of woman. She will sigh and moan and rack her brain looking for some reason to find fault with something or somebody. Her life appears like a constant effort to make herself miserable. And she succeeds admirably, not only in making herself miserable, but also makes herself old looking, hurts her nervous system and has many other effects that

are not conducive to health and sanity. Those who come in contact with this woman feel her disposition and become equally unhappy. "Is a case of poor human nature which always accepts the unreal and the cheerless."

The cheerful woman. A cheerful woman is one of the greatest blessings God can provide. It is a beautiful thing to meet one of these angels anywhere. Recently a social captain of industry, who employs thousands of men got on a street car to go to his office. His mind was preoccupied with deals and a thousand and one things that make life burdensome and the hair prematurely gray. The conductor was possibly more gruff than the average of

Christmas and the Children.

THE Christmas festival remains just as much a thing of pleasure to the household as ever, and particularly so on account of the children. There is the Christmas tree, Santa Claus and the hanging of the stockings as well as the decoration of the house—all of which are important factors.

Some pessimists, weary of the work connected with the Christmas program, say that it is a dead letter, that there is nothing to it, that children can no longer be fooled with the Santa Claus idea; that youngsters nowadays can discount their elders when it comes to discussing of the possibilities of the holiday. All these ideas are rank treason to the day and to its proper observance. The children are the princes of the Christmas Day festival, and while there are children and loving parents, the observance of the day shall be replete with good things.

To the children Santa Claus is not a

Hanging Stockings.

Where the custom of hanging the stockings up for the visit of the idol of the children originated is a tale of long-gone days, of days when the world did not move so fast, and its people were more honest and more easy-going and more imaginative than they are now. Pleasant things were appreciated because they were pleasant. Spooks and fairies and other good people were supposed to walk about at night making the air purer, the sky clearer and the lives of the people more joyful than they otherwise would be.

And today the little boy and little girl, arrayed in their night clothes, hang up their little stockings with as much expectant pleasure as did their forebears, after the night prayers are said and the hour for sleep has arrived. Don't you remember how you determined to stay awake and wait the coming of Old Santa

about the expense, in view of bills due and household necessities, you enter with all your heart into the program. The tree is finally set up. Its brilliant decorations of tinsel and lights are arranged to suit everybody and then the presents are hung. Is it not a happy time?

Father gets a new cigar case or a pipe or a cane. You get that set of furs upon which your heart has been set for so long and which your husband has purchased as a memento of the season by denying himself many things that appeal to his ideas of personal comfort. And so it is all down the line. The children hang on their dolls or their candy or their playthings and have an immense time. Don't you love Christmas better on account of their pleasure in it?

Decorating the House.

Decorating the home for the Christmas



The Day of All Days for the Children.

Claus, and you don't forget how sleep overcame your eyes and how at the morning's awakening you found your stocking full of the very things you asked the good old man to bring you. How you marvelled at it! Would you deprive your children of the same pleasure? If not, let them hang their stockings where they will be convenient to Santa and make sure when sleep closes their eyes that Santa Claus visits them and pays his reckoning.

The Christmas Tree.

Of course there must be a tree. Christmas would not be Christmas without it. To the oldest as well as to the youngest member of the family the tree is of considerable consequence. Its size is immaterial, but you must have one. The father, tired from his day's labor, brings it home and then discusses with you the question of placing it and decorating it. Your heart grows warm and while, sometimes, you are worried

season is always a work of love. It means work and lots of it to arrange things and it is your duty to see that it is properly done. The simplest and the most easily obtainable decorations are generally the best. "Flowers and fennel gay" promise to be very cheap this season and the children delight in weaving them into things that are ornamental. It is easy to make wreaths of holly. There should be an abundance of this Christmas leaf everywhere. Place a large bouquet of the green leaves and red berries on the table, behind the picture frames, on the chandelier—in fact everywhere that decorations are possible and allow the children to help you. It will do them so much good that the pleasure they receive from it will repay you for the extra trouble.

Taken in its entirety, Christmas is essentially the children's festival—a day of peace and plenty—of happiness and good heart. Make sure that your children enjoy it.

Cheerfulness in the Home makes a Happy Christmas

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Essays on cheerfulness are written every day in the streets on which one walks—in the air one breathes. They are written in the prosperity and happiness of the people in their willingness to accept burdens and bear them manfully, whether the reward be great or small. It is the cheerful man and woman that

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The Christmas Crush.

OF all times when the stores of any large city in the country are crowded, jammed, bustling places, the two weeks preceding Christmas are the worst. Notwithstanding the experience of former years, the columns of advice on the subject printed in the newspapers and the efforts of the proprietors themselves to improve upon the public the advantages of buying early, there is always the final grand rush at the eleventh hour. "The Christmas Crush," some one has appropriately called it—and a crush it is, indeed.

Somewhat, there seems to be a peculiar fascination about a big department store around Christmas. Even if one has no money with which to make purchases, there's real joy in merely walking through the stores and looking at the pretty things displayed. The very fact that the long aisles are filled and crowded with pushing, hurrying men and women, entering and leaving in what seems an endless stream, lends an added charm to shopping. Some feel that, along with the rest, one must be in the crowd to be part of the crowd, and to be in the atmosphere of bustle and haste, makes the season seem more like Christmas. To be caught in the swarming crowd and carried along one aisle and down another; to have to elbow one's way through a line standing three deep before a counter before one can examine the goods; to wait one's turn to be waited on by the overworked clerks; to greet friends, all intent on similar errands, and to feel that one has but a short time in which to purchase so many things, are all part and parcel of the Christmas crush. Tiresome it all is, maybe, but very few women are willing to forego it.

A Novel Solution.

"It seems more like Christmas to me," said a woman, a practical woman, much admired for her forthrightness, "if I can just get into the struggling Christmas crowd and feel that I, along with the rest, am preparing for Christmas Day. I really don't know why it is, for I come home dead tired after a day in the mad-street of the Christmas crush, but it seems as though Christmas is a reality if I can just get out each day for a while in the crush. I know it is the wise thing to do. It is easy to make wreaths of holly. There should be an abundance of this Christmas leaf everywhere. Place a large bouquet of the green leaves and red berries on the table, behind the picture frames, on the chandelier—in fact everywhere that decorations are possible and allow the children to help you. It will do them so much good that the pleasure they receive from it will repay you for the extra trouble."

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the time of my life wandering around with the crowd. I get in the Christmas crush and am willing to be crushed and pulled and shoved and elbowed without complaint, for I have nothing that I really have to buy and I don't care if I can't get waited 'on while a fat woman is taking a half hour of the clerk's time to decide on a 25-cent purchase. It is so delightful to be one of the crush and yet not rushed and overworked.

Real Inspiration.

"The owners of the stores are always glad to have you there, even if your shopping is all over with, and your presents home in the closet, for there's always a chance of your seeing something else so dainty and pretty that you can't help buying it. And then one is in a much better humor and so much more able to enjoy the Christmas crush—and we women do enjoy it, though we rarely admit it and frequently complain of it—if one's purchases are nearly complete."

"Really, don't you know, I believe I get more real inspiration for a real Christmas, more of the spirit of the season and more of the peace on earth, good will towards



In the Christmas Crush.

men' feeling out of the Christmas crush than I do out of anything else—except the Christmas service at church. You have no idea how delightfully independent and jolly and charitable one feels to be part of the crowd, when one knows that one really doesn't have to be. And it is so easy to hold one's temper when some thoughtless woman runs her elbow in your back and wades through the crowd like an auto on the Vanderbilt cup course. It is easy to be polite and considerate of the clerks, and one gets so much better service from them, too, for they are worn and tired, and a woman who smiles at them and speaks pleasantly is appreciated. Oh, yes, I'm quite sure my little plan of enjoying the Christmas crush is a success, for I've tried it for three seasons now, and I've recommended it to many of my friends."